IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of claims with amendments that replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a blade for a cutting tool, in particular for a knife, a pair of scissors, a saw, a household appliance, or indeed an industrial tool, the blade being made of steel or an alloy of stainless steels and having at least one cutting edge extending over at least a portion of a periphery thereof, the method comprising the following steps:

a) making a blade body possessing at least three [[one]] free edges [[edge]] provided in a vicinity of the at least one cutting edge;

b) projecting a make-up material in the form of a powder onto one of the at least three free edges ~~the at least one free edge~~, the hardness of the make-up material being greater than the hardness of the blade body;

c) subjecting the make-up material powder to a laser beam at the same time as projecting the make-up material powder so as to form a bead or strip on at least a portion of one of the at least three [[one]] free [[edge]] edges so that the bead or strip

form instantaneously, an intimate bond with the blade body;

d) after said intimate bond is formed, performing a ~~termpering and hardening~~ hardening and tempering operation on the blade body and the bead or strip; wherein said blade body is fitted with the [[a]] bead or strip of the make-up material; and

e) forming the cutting edge in the bead or strip of make-up material so as to form a sharp edge.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein one of the at least three free edges ~~the at least one free edge~~ is formed by a flat extending perpendicularly to a main plane of the blade body.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the blade body presents dimensions that are slightly smaller than those of the final blade.

5. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one cutting edge is made by grinding, machining, or abrading at least the bead or the strip of make-up material.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the blade body is machined or ground before the step of forming the bead of make-up material.

8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A blade for a cutting tool, in particular a knife, a pair of scissors, a saw, a household appliance, or an industrial machine, the blade having at least one cutting edge on at least a portion of a periphery thereof, and having a blade body, the at least one cutting edge being supported on an edge of the blade body and made by a process comprising the following steps:

a) making a blade body possessing at least three [[one]] free edges [[edge]] provided in a vicinity of the at least one cutting edge;

b) projecting a make-up material in the form of a powder onto one of the at least three free edges ~~the at least one free edge~~,

the hardness of the make-up material being greater than the hardness of the blade body;

c) subjecting the make-up material powder to a laser beam at the same time as projecting the make-up material powder so as to form a bead or strip on at least a portion of one of the at least three [[one]] free [[edge]] edges so that the bead or strip form instantaneously, an intimate bond with the blade body;

d) after said intimate bond is formed, performing a ~~termpering and hardening~~ hardening and tempering operation on the blade body and the bead or strip; wherein said blade body is fitted with a bead or strip of the make-up material; and

e) forming the cutting edge in the bead or strip of make-up material so as to form a sharp edge.

11. (Previously Amended) A blade according to claim 10, wherein the at least one cutting edge and the blade body are made of at least two different materials.

12. (Currently Amended) A cutting tool, in particular a knife, a pair of scissors, a saw, a household appliance, or an industrial machine, having at least one blade and made by a process comprising the following steps:

a) making a blade body possessing at least three [[one]] free edges [[edge]] provided in a vicinity of the at least one cutting edge;

b) projecting a make-up material in the form of a powder onto one of the at least three free edges ~~the at least one free edge~~,

the hardness of the make-up material being greater than the hardness of the blade body;

c) subjecting the make-up material powder to a laser beam at the same time as projecting the make-up material powder so as to form a bead or strip on at least a portion of one of the at least three [[one]] free [[edge]] edges so that the bead or strip form instantaneously, an intimate bond with the blade body;

d) after said intimate bond is formed, performing a ~~termpering and hardening~~ hardening and tempering operation on the blade body and the bead or strip; wherein said blade body is fitted with a bead or strip of the make-up material; and

e) forming the cutting edge in the bead or strip of make-up material so as to form a sharp edge.